

ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector for the year 1949.

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-1949 civilian population was 4,217.

The number of births was 105, and the birth-rate per 1000 estimated resident population was 24.90. Compared with the rate for England and Wales viz. 16.7 this rate is quite high and is indicative of a vigorous and relatively young community. In the decade 1901 - 1910, the birth-rate in England and Wales was 27.2, since when there has been a progressive decline to 14.2 in 1941, while in the post war years it gradually increased to 20.50 in 1947, since when it has again begun to fall. In Romney Marsh Rural District however, the rate for 1949 viz. 24.90 is the highest since the war, and is a healthy sign.

There were 4 deaths amongst infants under one year of age, due to prematurity, congenital malformation, enteritis and pneumonia, respectively, giving an infantile mortality rate of 38 per 1,000 live births. This rate is higher than that viz. 32 for England and Wales. However, in the preceding year the rate was nil, there being no deaths, and in a comparatively small population as in the Romney Marsh Rural District a few deaths may lead to a high rate. The facilities available at the Child Welfare Centres in New Romney and Lydd Boroughs are not so conveniently accessible to the mothers in the Romney Marsh Rural District which is rather "thinly populated and in which a number of the villages are somewhat isolated".

The number of stillbirths was 2, giving a rate of 18.7 per 1,000 live and still births. There is much evidence that the number of still births can be kept at a minimum only by thorough ante-natal and obstetric care.

There were no deaths amongst mothers due to Puerperal Sepsis and other Maternal causes, which is a reflection of the care taken by all those engaged in the Midwifery Services.

The crude death-rate was 14.70 per 1,000 Civilian Population. As Romney Marsh Rural District is a very healthy area, it is probable that there is a larger number of aged people within the population than there would be in large industrial districts and a study of the ages of those who died throughout the year supports this assumption. The rate is therefore more likely to be higher than for the whole of England and Wales. The Registrar-General has, however provided a comparability factor which is calculated for the purpose of securing comparability between local death rates and is dependent upon the age and sex distribution of the population. When the crude death rate of 14.7 is so adjusted, the rate becomes 12.34, compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

The number of deaths was 27 in males and 35 in females. The chief inter-related cause, as expected was Heart diseases and Intracranial vascular lesions. These deaths throughout the Country have definitely increased and it is thought that





several forms of heart disease are caused by prolonged mental stress and anxiety.

Again, as expected, Cancer was the second chief cause of death. Most cases occur amongst elderly people and treatment is only effective if the disease is diagnosed before it is too advanced.

There were 4 deaths from Tuberculosis of the lungs and 1 from other forms. The number of cases in the District on the Tuberculosis Register is 12 Respiratory and 1 Non-Respiratory, in other words 3 persons per 1,000 of the population are affected. As with Cancer, early diagnosis is essential for successful treatment. It is also very tragic that there are insufficient beds and insufficient nurses to treat all those in the active stage of the disease.

There were no deaths from Infectious Disease.

68 cases of Measles were notified. This disease can be lethal in infants owing to the complication, broncho-pneumonia, and it is gratifying that there were no deaths. It is also most infectious before the rash appears, and in this phase it is usually mistaken for the common cold which it so closely resembles, hence the reason for its rapid spread amongst susceptible children, particularly in school class-rooms.

12 cases of Whooping Cough were notified. This is also a dangerous illness in children under 2 years, particularly infants, also owing to the common complication, broncho-pneumonia. No inoculum has yet been found in this Country, that is certain to prevent the disease, but assured claims are made in some quarters of America. The Medical Research Council, however, is actively engaged in an attempt to find a prophylactic which will provide effective immunity and it is hoped that their researches will be successful.

Only one case of Scarlet Fever was notified. This disease was very virulent and caused many deaths and disabilities in the last Century, but now deaths are very rare and complications uncommon. The most serious and frequent complication occurring today is Otitis Media (Middle Ear Disease) which may occur in mild infections. It is preferable therefore that when possible, all cases should be sent to the Infectious Diseases Hospital for adequate treatment and also to ensure that they do not become convalescent or chronic carriers of the organism.

One case of Diphtheria occurred in a child of five years, but fortunately diagnosis was established early enough for treatment to be effective. There is no record as to whether the child was immunised. This disease is now becoming rare owing to immunisation, which if maintained at intervals of several years by booster inoculations, is a sure safeguard against invasion of the body by the organisms. It is essential therefore that every child should be effectively immunised.

It is also very desirable that every child should be vaccinated in infancy against Smallpox. Serious outbreaks keep recurring in this Country and vaccination is the only sure safeguard against its occurrence and spread.

Immunisation and vaccination can be done, free of charge, by the family doctor or at the Child Welfare Clinics in Lydd or New Romney.

Two isolated cases of Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile



Paralysis) occurred, one in February the other in November and neither of these patients died. It is not known how these patients became infected, and no subsequent cases have occurred. The causal organism is a virus which cannot be identified without elaborate laboratory technique and investigations which are not practicable in the field, as can be done, for example, by taking swabs to identify the Diphtheria Organism or samples of faeces for the Typhoid organism. The virus has, however, been isolated from the human nose and throat and faeces and consequently from sewage. As far as present knowledge has gone, the best safeguards are the practice of strict personal hygiene by those responsible for the manufacture of food and drink, proper sanitation and drainage and adequate control over insects, such as flies and mosquitoes and vermin, such as rats and mice. It is not practicable in the field to identify healthy or convalescent carriers and very difficult to detect mild cases who show no paralysis. It is presumed that these people take the infection directly, but, of course, unwittingly, from one district to another, or indirectly contaminate food and drink.

The same safeguards apply to Food Poisoning, no cases of which, however, were notified in the District, and which, indirectly, is a tribute to the work of the Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion, I should like to thank you for your interest and co-operation in the work of this Department and my staff for their efficient and loyal service.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. MARSHALL.

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT FOR  
1949.

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Area:- 31,031 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population (Civilian)	4,217
Total	4,342

Number of Inhabited Houses According  
to the Rate Books ... 1,656

Rateable Value:- ... £23,153

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate:- £90

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Social Conditions.

Romney Marsh Rural District is almost entirely engaged in Agriculture which is the only industry and common interest of the community. Part of the boundary is formed by the sea with wide expanses of sand, and here, where there are holiday camps, camping-sites and sea-side dwellings, the inhabitants cater for the requirements of the many holiday-makers. There is negligible unemployment and social conditions are generally satisfactory.





# EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.		Romney Marsh Rural Dist.	England and Wales
1. Live Births	105	63	42	Birth Rate	24.90	16.7
(a) Legitimate	95	56	39	per 1,000		
(b) Illegitimate	10	7	3	estimated		
				resident		
				population.		
2. Stillbirths	2	1	1	Rate per	19.05	-
(a) Legitimate	2	1	1	1,000 total		
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	(live and		
				still)		
				births.		
3. Deaths	62	27	35	Death rate	Crude 14.70	11.7
				per 1,000	Adjusted	
				resident	12.34	
				population.		
4. Deaths from Puerperal Causes						
(a) Sepsis	-	-	-	Rate per	-	0.11
(b) Other Maternal				1,000 (live		
Causes	-	-	-	and still)		
				Births.	-	0.71
5. Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	4	3	1			
(a) Legitimate	4	3	1			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live					38.10	32
				births		
Rate re legitimate infants					38.10	
Rate re illegitimate infants					-	
6. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					10	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					1	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1949

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	12
Measles	...	...	...	68
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1



CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT  
DURING 1949

ALL CAUSES			Males 27	Females 35
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	...	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	...	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	4	-
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	-	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	-	-
9.	Influenza	...	-	1
10.	Measles	...	-	-
11.	Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio- encephalitis	...	-	-
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	-	-
13.	Cancer of Buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	...	-	2
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	1	1
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	-	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	1	4
17.	Diabetes	...	-	1
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	3	6
19.	Heart Diseases	...	9	7
20.	Other diseases of the circulator system	...	-	3
21.	Bronchitis	...	1	2
22.	Pneumonia	...	2	1
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	1	-
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	-	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	-	1
26.	Appendicitis	...	-	-
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis	...	-	-
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis	...	-	-
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	-	-
31.	Premature Birth	...	1	-
32.	Congenital Malformation. Birth Injuries Infantile Diseases	...	1	-
33.	Suicide	...	1	-
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	-	-
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	2	2
36.	All other causes	...	-	2





ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF BUILDING SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1949.

From the under-mentioned data and statistics, some idea of what has been carried out by this Department can be gathered.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The Water Supply in this area is by :-

- (a) The Littlestone & District Water Company. Parishes of Dymchurch and St. Mary's.
- (b) The Mid-Kent Water Company. Remaining seven Parishes.

The Ministry of Health have approved water extension schemes in various Parishes at an estimated cost of £13,242.

2. SEWERS

The outline Scheme to deal with the Coastal Belt of Dymchurch and St. Mary's-in-the-Marsh, have been submitted by the Consulting Engineer, and this Scheme has been forwarded to the Ministry of Health and the K.C.C. for their observations.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Cesspools are emptied throughout the area by the Council. Where emptying of Cesspools are required more than twice in six months a charge of 10/- . is made.

4. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

<u>Premises Inspected.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>
<u>Accumulation found.</u>	2.
<u>Animals Kept</u>	
(a) Piggeries	3
(b) Stables	6
(c) Fowls, pigeons etc.	18.
<u>Complaints</u>	
Total number investigated. (All Premises)	105
<u>Dairies.</u>	
Cowsheds	36
Dairies	51
Milk Shops	8
<u>Disinfection</u>	
Number of houses disinfected	3
Number of other buildings disinfected	-
<u>Disinfestation</u>	
Number of houses.	1
Number of other premises.	-
<u>Drainage</u>	
Number of drains found choked	40
-do- defective	6
-do- tested	23
<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	
Number of Inspections re. Repairs.	56
Re-inspections	19
Number inspected re. overcrowding	3
Number found dirty	2
Number found verminous	1



<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Visits re. Scarlet Fever.	1
" " Diphtheria	1
" " Other Diseases	8

Factories

With mechanised power	12
Without " "	-
Bakehouses	26

Food Premises

Butchers' Shops or Stalls.	63
Preparation of Potted Meat etc.	25
Fruiters.	20
Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops.	30
Restaurants or Cafe Kitchens.	75.

Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological Examination.

Satisfactory	19
Unsatisfactory	3

Miscellaneous Visits

Number of visits not otherwise classified.	73
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Building Byelaws 310Shops Act 51Tents, Vans, Sheds etc. 45Water Supply

Samples of these two undertakings, the Mid-Kent Water Company & Littlestone & District Water Company have throughout the year been found Satisfactory.

5. Rodent Control

Inspections made.	80
Infestations dealt with January to December	28
Estimated Mice Killed	135
Actual Mice Bodies found	62
Estimated Rats killed	975
Actual Rat Bodies found.	345

6. Housing Programmes

It is interesting to note the expansion of the Council House Property.

Prewar. (Brick 3 Bedroom Type)	30
During the War. (Agricultural Brick)	14
Post War. Swedish	16
Airey	16
Traditional Brick (3 Bedroom Type)	87
Total Houses Occupied.	163

7. MILK SUPPLY

The Supply of Milk within the area was found to be Satisfactory. Equipment in the dairies was sufficient to deal with extra volume occasioned during the Summer, especially at the peak time.

8. MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1949 :-

Minced Beef Loaf.	1 Tin
Cod.	5 Stone
Liver	13 lbs.
Bacon	16½ lbs.





ICE CREAM

9. Three Licenced Producers operate in the area. 22 Samples were taken throughout the District and found to be Satisfactory.

10. BUILDING LICENCES

Total of £41,817, numbering 63 licences, have been dealt with during the past year. This includes Cost of Works (War Damage Rebuilding) and New Houses by Private Enterprise.

11. PLANS

Number of Planning Applications dealt with under Town & Country Planning Act, 1947 submitted to this Council were 147.

Classified 111. and dealt with by the Kent County Council 15.  
" 11. & 1. " " " this Council. 132.

3 Appeals were lodged with the Ministry of Town & Country Planning.

2 Appeals Upheld.

1 Decision Awaited.

12. CAMPING SITES

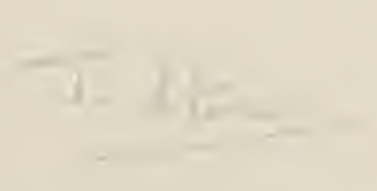
Only Three Licenced Camping Sites are now in the area.

13. MORTUARY

With regard to the Council's Owned Mortuary, the following cases were dealt with :--

Total Number of Cases.	7
Number on which Post Mortem have been carried out.	6

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

  
Building Surveyor.

"Prescott"  
New Romney.

July, 1950.

